

13-18 are classified in the same class and subclass indicates that the requirement restriction between the two sets of claims is not proper. Since no reasons have been advanced for restriction between the claims of Groups I and II, the restriction requirement for that reason alone is improper.

Further, for an appropriate restriction requirement, the claims of each group must be patentably distinct relative to the claims of the other group. A review of claims 1 and 13 reveal a close similarity in the claimed subject matter. If these claims are patentably distinct from one another, the Examiner should so state.

The requirement for restriction as between Groups I and II, on the one hand, and Group III, on the other hand, is also respectfully traversed. The Examiner states that those groups are related as product and process of use and that the product as claimed can be used in materially different processes, such as one with buckets that are fixed or releasably secure. In claim 1 of Group I, the buckets are releasably secured to a fixture. In claim 6 of Group I, the buckets are removed from the fixture. In claim 13 of Group II, the buckets are fixed in predetermined positions. In claim 16 of Group II, the buckets are removed from their fixed positions. The processes, as claimed, are not, therefore, materially different processes as alleged.

As to the requirement for election of species, please note that in both cases, whether the buckets are releasably secure to the fixture or fixed to a fixture, they are removable from the fixture, i.e., see the dependent claims 6 and 16. Applicants submit that the Examiner has not made the case that Species A, i.e., releasably securing the buckets to the fixture and Species B fixing the buckets and in both cases later removing the buckets from the fixtures constitute

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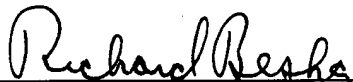
patentable distinctions as is required for an appropriate election of species under 35 U.S.C. § 121.

Accordingly, applicants submit that all claims should be examined in this single application.

Early action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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